

REMARKS

Claims 1-14, 16-22, and 24-25 are pending. Claim 1 has been amended, without prejudice to pursue the original claim in a related application. Claim 26 is new. No new matter has been added.

Rejection of Independent Claim 1 under 35 USC §103(a) as Unpatentable over Kubo (US 6,091,467) in view of Kubota (JP Pub. No. 10-098190):

In response, independent claim 1 has been amended to recite the following limitations not disclosed or even suggested by Kubo or Kubota (*emphasis added*):

a shielding electrode formed on the passivation layer and disposed on a region between the source electrode and the drain electrode,
wherein the shielding electrode provides voltage shielding for the region on which it is disposed, and
wherein the shielding electrode comprises a transparent electrode.

In reference to Fig. 13 and col. 3, lines 29-48, Kubo discloses disposing an inter-layer insulation film 208 at portions other than the drain electrode 207 and disposing a light shielding film 210 on the TFT device 218 via the insulation film 208. According to Kubo, the light shielding film 210 prevents light from entering the a-Si layers 203, 204 and 205 of the TFT device 218. Clearly, the insulation film 208 and the light shielding film 210 are formed of the same opaque, light blocking material that does not provide voltage shielding, as conceded by the Action on page 3. Kubo is only concerned with light shielding, and as such, Kubo is not concerned with voltage shielding. Therefore, Kubo fails to disclose each and every limitation of the present claims, and Kubo fails to suggest or even motivate one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Kubo to teach the subject matter of the present claims.

The Action purports that Kubota teaches a shielding electrode. However, the conductive light-shielding film 3 of Kubota is explicitly provided for light shielding, as with Kubo. Clearly, Kubota fails to disclose or even suggest that the light-shielding film 3 provides voltage shielding for the region on which it is disposed or that the light-shielding film 3 comprises a transparent electrode, as recited in the present claims.

In contrast to both Kubo and Kubota, present independent claim 1, as amended, recites, "wherein the shielding electrode provides voltage shielding for the region on which it is disposed," and, "wherein the shielding electrode comprises a transparent electrode." Support for these limitations may be found throughout Applicants' specification, for example, page 12, par. 103, and page 14, pars. 113 and 118.

Therefore, since the cited Kubo reference fails to disclose or even suggest each and every limitation of amended claim 1, and Kubota fails to remedy the deficiencies of Kubo, independent claim 1, as amended, and dependent claims 2-8 and 26 are considered to be in condition for allowance, and such allowance is respectively requested.

Rejection of Claims 9 and 19 under 35 USC §103(a) as Unpatentable over Kubo (US 6,091,467) in view of Kubota (JP Pub. No. 10-098190):

In response, claim 9 recites the following limitations not disclosed or even suggested by Kubo or Kubota (*emphasis added*):

a pixel electrode connected to the drain electrode to receive the data signal; and

a first shielding electrode disposed on the channel portion of the first thin film transistor, *wherein the first shielding electrode is formed of the same layer as the pixel electrode.*

In reference to Fig. 13 and col. 3, lines 29-48, Kubo explicitly discloses that the insulation film 208 and the light shielding film 210 are formed of the same opaque, light blocking material that does not provide voltage shielding, as conceded by the Action on page 3. Kubo is only concerned with light shielding, and as such, Kubo is not concerned with voltage shielding. To the extent that Kubo discloses forming a pixel electrode 209, Kubo fails to disclose or even suggest that the light shielding film 210 is formed of the same material as the pixel electrode 209, as recited in the present claims.

The ancillary Kubota reference fails to remedy the deficiencies of Kubo. For example, Kubota explicitly teaches that the electrode layer 2 is transparent and the light-shielding film 3 is opaque to provide shielding for the TFT 4.

Therefore, since the cited Kubo reference fails to disclose or even suggest each and every limitation of present claim 9, and Kubota fails to remedy the deficiencies of

Kubo, independent claim 9 and dependent claims 10-14 and 16-18 are considered to be in condition for allowance, and such allowance is respectively requested.

Since independent claim 19 recites similar limitations as with claim 9, claim 19 and dependent claims 20-22 and 24-25 are considered to be in condition for allowance for at least the same reasons as discussed above in reference to claim 9, and such allowance is respectively requested.

New Claim:

Claim 26 is new and is considered to be in condition for allowance for at least its dependence on claim 1, and such allowance is respectively requested.

CONCLUSION

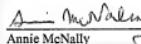
For the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested and a timely Notice of Allowance is solicited.

If there are any questions regarding any aspect of the application, please call the undersigned at (949) 752-7040.

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Respectfully submitted,



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